

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

11. (Amended) ~~The aptamer of claim 1 comprising~~ An aptamer having a length of between 13 and 22 nucleic acid units, inclusive, and having a sequence which includes at least two G-rich regions selected from the group consisting of GGnG, GGGG, GnGG, nGGG and GGGn, where G is deoxyguanosine and n is any nucleotide, and wherein the nucleic acid units in the aptamer and the at least two G-rich regions are selected such that the aptamer reduces CD28 expression in an activated human T-cell and wherein the aptamer has the sequence 5' TTG GAG GGG GTG GTG GGG. 3' (Seq. Id. No. 4).
12. (Amended) ~~The aptamer of claim 1 comprising~~ An aptamer having a length of between 13 and 22 nucleic acid units, inclusive, and having a sequence which includes at least two G-rich regions selected from the group consisting of GGnG, GGGG, GnGG, nGGG and GGGn, where G is deoxyguanosine and n is any nucleotide, and wherein the nucleic acid units in the aptamer and the at least two G-rich regions are selected such that the aptamer reduces CD28 expression in an activated human T-cell and wherein the aptamer has the sequence 5' GGG GAG GAG GGG CTG GAA 3' (Seq. Id. No. 5).
13. (Canceled)
14. (Amended) ~~The aptamer of claim 1 comprising~~ An aptamer having a length of between 13 and 22 nucleic acid units, inclusive, and having a sequence which includes at least two G-rich regions selected from the group consisting of GGnG, GGGG, GnGG, nGGG and GGGn, where G is deoxyguanosine and n is any nucleotide, and wherein the nucleic acid units in the aptamer and the at least two G-rich regions are selected such that the aptamer reduces CD28 expression in an activated human T-cell and wherein the aptamer has the sequence 5' TTG GAG GGG GAG GAG GGG 3' (Seq. Id. No. 7).

15. (Amended) ~~The aptamer of claim 1 comprising~~ An aptamer having a length of between 13 and 22 nucleic acid units, inclusive, and having a sequence which includes at least two G-rich regions selected from the group consisting of GGnG, GGGG, GnGG, nGGG and GGGn, where G is deoxyguanosine and n is any nucleotide, and wherein the nucleic acid units in the aptamer and the at least two G-rich regions are selected such that the aptamer reduces CD28 expression in an activated human T-cell and wherein the aptamer has the sequence 5' TTG GAG GGG GAG GTG GGG 3' (Seq. Id. No. 8).
16. (Amended) ~~The aptamer of claim 1 comprising~~ An aptamer having a length of between 13 and 22 nucleic acid units, inclusive, and having a sequence which includes at least two G-rich regions selected from the group consisting of GGnG, GGGG, GnGG, nGGG and GGGn, where G is deoxyguanosine and n is any nucleotide, and wherein the nucleic acid units in the aptamer and the at least two G-rich regions are selected such that the aptamer reduces CD28 expression in an activated human T-cell and wherein the aptamer has the sequence 5' GGG TTG GAG GGG GTG GTG GGG 3' (Seq. Id. No. 6).
17. (Amended) A method of medicating an isolated immunocompetent cell, comprising administering to the cell an aptamer ~~according to claim 1~~ at a concentration effective to reduce CD28 expression, wherein the aptamer has a length of between 13 and 22 nucleic acid units, inclusive, and having a sequence which includes at least two G-rich regions selected from the group consisting of GGnG, GGGG, GnGG, nGGG and GGGn, where G is deoxyguanosine and n is any nucleotide, and wherein the nucleic acid units in the aptamer and the at least two G-rich regions are selected such that the aptamer reduces CD28 expression in an activated human T-cell.
18. (Canceled)
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the immunocompetent cell is from a patient suffering from a graft vs host response.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the immune competent cell is from a patient suffering from an autoimmune disease.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the autoimmune disease comprises rheumatoid arthritis.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the autoimmune disease multiple sclerosis.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the autoimmune disease comprises lupus erythematosus.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the autoimmune disease comprises insulin dependent diabetes mellitus.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the autoimmune disease comprises psoriasis.